

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 as shown below. Please cancel claims 3, 13, 38 and 48 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please add new claims 119 to 121. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions ~~[[I]]~~ having descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, wherein at least one axis of access is a table-of-contents classification, ~~[[ii]]~~ and the descriptions being separate from the resources, ~~and (iii) having one or more links wherein each descriptor component, having an attribute representative of a table of contents, has a link to a corresponding portion of the~~ electronically-accessible resources;

displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in said reading step;

receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items;

receiving an indication of a further axis of access;

displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components; and

reading, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component having an attribute representative of a table-of-contents classification, via links, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected descriptor component in response to a received selection.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descriptions of the resources are generated using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are a persistent item of the description scheme.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise digital audiovisual content.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components representative of the at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

19-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the description of the resource but not reading the resource, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, the description also having one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, wherein the descriptor components, including a table of contents attribute, each have a link to a corresponding portion of the resource;

displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

receiving a selection of one displayed index item;

associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item; and

associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of associating the selected display index item is allowed only if the corresponding descriptor of the selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of choosing a representative value is predetermined.

36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions ~~[[I]]~~ having descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, wherein at least one axis of access is a table-of-contents classification, ~~[[ii]]~~ and the descriptions being separate from the resources, and ~~(iii) having one or more~~

~~links wherein each descriptor component, having an attribute representative of a table of contents, has a link to a~~ corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

means for displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read by said reading means;

means for receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items;

means for receiving an indication of a further axis of access;

means for displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components; and

means for reading, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component having an attribute representative of a table-of-contents classification, ~~via links, a portion of the~~ electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected descriptor component ~~in response to a received selection.~~

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said means for reading the descriptions represents each description by a tree of descriptor

components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the descriptions of the resources are provided using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are persistent items of the description scheme.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise digital audiovisual content.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components representative of the at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resources or a section of a resource.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

54-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading the description of the resource without reading the resource, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, the description also having one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, wherein the descriptor components,

including a table of contents attribute, each have a link to a corresponding portion of the resource;

means for displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

means for receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

means for displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

means for receiving a selection of one displayed index item;

means for associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

means for receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item; and

means for associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item,

wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

68. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein said reading means represents each description by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

69. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein operation of said associating means is allowed only if the corresponding descriptor of the selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

70. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 67, wherein operation of said means for selecting one said table of contents item is optional and if not performed said means for displaying an index displays all index items associated with all table of contents items.

71. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said computer program comprising:

code for reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions ~~[[I]]~~ having descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, wherein at least one axis of access is a table-of-contents classification, ~~[[ii]]~~ and the descriptions being separate from the resources, and ~~(iii) having one or more~~

~~links~~ wherein each descriptor component, having an attribute representative of a table of contents, has a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

code for displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read by said reading code;

code for receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items;

code for receiving an indication of a further axis of access;

code for displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components; and

code for reading, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component having an attribute representative of a table-of-contents classification, ~~via links, a portion of the~~ electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected descriptor component ~~in response to a received selection.~~

72-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource, said computer program comprising:

code for reading the description of the resource without reading the resource, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, the description also having one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, wherein the descriptor components, including a table of contents attribute, each have a link to a corresponding portion of the resource;

code for displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

code for receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

code for displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item;

code for receiving a selection of one displayed index item;

code for associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item;

code for receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item; and

code for associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

75-118. (Cancelled)

119. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources is a spatially localized extent of the resources.

120. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources is a temporally localized extent of the resources.

121. (New) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the corresponding portion of the resource is the resource.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW PREMATURE FINALITY

Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the instant Office Action be withdrawn, as it was believed to have been made final prematurely. MPEP § 706.07(a) states in relevant part that “any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant’s amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement...” The instant Office Action changed the grounds for rejection of Claims 32, 67 and 74 from a §103(a) rejection over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,806 (DeRose) to a § 103(a) rejection over U.S. Patent No. 5,959,627 (Duwaer). However, the amendments made to Claims 32, 67 and 74 are believed to have merely clarified the claimed features, and are not believed to have added any new subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action’s new grounds of rejection of Claims 32, 67 and 74 were not necessitated by Applicant’s amendment. As such, it is respectfully requested that the finality of the previous Office Action be withdrawn.